

The right way does not exist

Tolerance... Possibly the key concept of our modern world. Should we be tolerant towards others or shouldn't we? I have been wondering lately: am I a tolerant person? Are the others tolerant towards me? Friedrich Nietzsche, the German scholar and philosopher, once said: *"You have your way. I have my way. As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist."* These wise words state that I have a way that works for me while you have a different way that works for you, so the wrong and the right way do not exist, because *the way* depends on the individual. One should be tolerant and understanding towards his neighbour since he is neither perfect nor close to being perfect. Perfection, just like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder.

Of all human qualities, tolerance is the most necessary. Tolerance is good manners. Tolerance is knowing and accepting that the others are different and still respecting them. In this world of diversity, tolerance is most indispensable for us to live and let others live. It is the ability to have a fair attitude towards those who have different opinions and religions, or who belong to a different nationality or ethnic group.

Why does tolerance matter in our world? Because, as it has been proven so many times, intolerance leads to disastrous consequences and unwanted events. In the book of Genesis, for instance, Cain, blind with hate, killed his brother, Abel, because God preferred the latter to him. Therefore, the first fratricide in the history of mankind was born from intolerance. Another example from history is that of Queen Mary of Great Britain, also known as Bloody Mary, who had Protestants burnt alive, because she could not tolerate their beliefs and faith and considered Puritanism a severe offence against the true religion: Catholicism. All the great disasters of mankind have been caused by people's incapacity to accept that others are not like us, that others do not share our beliefs or desires, even though for us these beliefs and desires represent the main purpose, the burning flame of our very existence.

Alexander Pope once said: To err is human, to forgive divine! All people commit sins and make many mistakes during their lives and still there is a God who forgives them and gives them another chance to seek absolution. If God can forgive, why can't we? Forgiveness goes hand in hand with tolerance, you can't have one without the other...and still there are not many who bother to make a difference in this world.

Tolerance is the power to see others as missing jigsaw puzzle pieces that fit together to make a wonderful whole. We should be able to accept and value our differences since they enrich us. They make us unique. They make us human and humane. But tolerance, despite all prejudices and injustice, reveals our kindness, our compassion and our godlike side.